

SENATE RESOLUTION 145

By Harris

A RESOLUTION to recognize Justin J. Pearson for his meritorious service to the youth of Shelby County.

WHEREAS, the members of this body take great pride in paying special tribute to those laudable individuals whose ingenuity and dedication serve to empower at-risk youth in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Justin J. Pearson of Memphis, founder of Camp Hope Memphis, who has dedicated himself to serving disadvantaged students in the Memphis area, providing them with access to a better future; and

WHEREAS, Camp Hope Memphis is a summer program that serves communities with high rates of poverty and violence; since 2013, the program has worked with more than 100 students in North and South Memphis; and

WHEREAS, in addition to focusing on academic and career readiness, Camp Hope Memphis strives to help students become social advocates who invest in their communities; students who participate in the program not only map out trajectories toward attending college or embarking on a career, they create actionable plans to improve their communities, meet with elected officials, and connect virtually with citizens from various countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, drawing on his passion for government, law, and education, Mr. Pearson devoted himself to spearheading Camp Hope Memphis, attracting many viable partners in the process; the program currently enjoys partnerships with the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Shelby County schools, Bowdoin's McKinley Family, Nucor Steel Corporation-Memphis, and Mr. Pearson's alma mater, Mitchell High School; and

WHEREAS, Justin Pearson is relentless in his belief that all people deserve a fair opportunity to achieve their dreams, a belief that was fostered by his parents, Kimberly and Jason Pearson, Sr., who raised five sons up from poverty; and

WHEREAS, the impact that Mr. Pearson has had on the youth in his community is a testament to what compassion in action can accomplish, and it is fitting that he be recognized for his good works; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby recognize Justin J. Pearson, founder of Camp Hope Memphis, for his unwavering commitment to the youth of Shelby County, extending our sincere best wishes for continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.